

Because He Lives Week 4

“Breakfast with Grace”

John 21:1-19

Big Idea

The risen Jesus restores purpose not by reopening failure, but by re-centering love and calling us forward into faithful obedience.

Introduction

- Because He lives...
 - He meets us in **grief**
 - He meets us in **fear and doubt**
 - He meets us in **disappointment**
- This week: Jesus meets us in **failure**

Key Question: *“After that... can God still use me?”*

Outline

1. Sometimes failure sends us back to what’s familiar

John 21:1-3

- Peter returns to fishing, his old life
- Failure often leads to retreat and self-doubt
- We step back from what God called us to

Key Line: Failure whispers: “You’re not who you thought you were.”

2. Jesus meets us in ordinary places, not just spiritual highs

John 21:4-9

- Jesus appears on the shore—quietly, unexpectedly
- The disciples don't recognize Him at first
- Obedience leads to recognition

Key Line: Resurrection life shows up in ordinary moments.

3. Grace meets us in the place of our failure

John 21:9-14

- Jesus prepares breakfast before addressing Peter
- The **charcoal fire** echoes Peter's denial (John 18)
- Same setting → different outcome

Key Line: Jesus doesn't avoid the place of failure, He redeems it.

4. Jesus restores by re-centering love, not replaying failure

John 21:15-17

- Three denials → three questions
- Jesus does not interrogate, He invites
- Restoration is relational, not transactional

Key Line: Restoration is not about reliving your worst moment, it's about reconnecting your deepest love.

5. Restoration leads to calling, not just forgiveness

- "Feed my sheep" love becomes action
- Peter is not just forgiven, he is recommissioned
- Failure does not cancel God's calling

Key Line: Jesus doesn't just forgive you, He sends you forward.

Application

1. Don't let failure define your future

- Your worst moment is not your identity
- Let Jesus define your next step

2. Recognize where you've been retreating

- Where have you stepped back after failure?
- Where might Jesus be inviting you back in?

3. Let Jesus re-center your love, not your shame

- Move from shame to relationship
- Return to the question: *"Do you love me?"*

4. Step back into what God has called you to do

- Don't wait for perfection
- Take the next step of obedience

5. Express your love for Jesus through action

- Love becomes visible
- Care for others = devotion to Jesus

Conclusion

Two fires.

- At the first fire, Peter says:
"I don't know Him."
- At the second fire, Peter says:
"You know that I love You."

Same man. Same past. Different future.

Key Line: Because He lives... failure doesn't get the final word.

Series Landing

Because He lives...

- grief doesn't get the final word
- fear doesn't get the final word
- doubt doesn't get the final word
- disappointment doesn't get the final word
- **failure doesn't get the final word**

Jesus does.